

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 as follows:

Content providers 101 and 102 respectively provide contents 103 and 104 to a user terminal 105. A content ID, which is an identifier of the content, is added to each of the contents 103 or 104 with the content ID, a determination processor 107 determines whether the user terminal 105 is a legal user terminal which is allowed to use the content. This determination is made based on the user ID of the user terminal 105 and the content usage conditions stored in a first storage unit 106. The content usage conditions are usage conditions which have been set by the content provider 101 or 102 for each user. If the determination processor 107 determines based on the content usage conditions that the content can be used, the content usage log is stored in a ~~second~~secondary storage unit 108 while associating the user ID with the content ID.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 15 as follows:

The content provider 101 or 102 collects the content usage log stored in the ~~second~~secondary storage unit 108 of the user terminal 105, and charges the usage fee according to the log. In this manner, in "superdistribution", the content usage conditions are determined for each user, and the usage log is recorded for each content. Thus, the use of the content is restricted to legal users, thereby enabling the collection of the usage fee.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 23 as follows:

In the above-described configuration of "superdistribution", although the content usage log is recorded, a fee collection system based on the usage log is not clearly indicated, and one of the following conventional methods has to be employed for paying the fee. (1) The user inputs a-his/her credit card number through the user terminal and sends it to a content provider, a

service provider, or a content right-of-use sales center for managing the rights of the use of the content. (2) The user inputs a his/her bank account number through the user terminal and sends it to a content provider, a service provider, or a content right-of-use sales center. (3) The user makes a user registration, and also registers a credit card number or a bank account number in a content provider, a service provider, or a content right-of-user sales center. Then, the content provider, the service provider, or the content right-of-user sales center deducts the usage fee based on the registered data.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 as follows:

According to the above-described payment methods, the user's credit card number or bank account number is required. It is ~~however~~ difficult, however, for the users who do not own a credit car or a bank account to use these methods. Additionally, the amount of money for each transaction of the content is becoming smaller, for example, only a single piece of music may be one unit of transaction in the music distribution. In this case, the fee for the content may be only a small amount of money, such as a few hundred yen or a few thousand yen. By being requested to provide a credit card number or a bank number for such a small amount of payment, the user is discouraged to employ such a transaction system. This is one of the reasons that the spread of content distribution has been hampered.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 5 as follows:

The UCP information may include profit distribution information of the content usage fee. The usage log and/or the receive log may include the profit distribution information, and the service provider and/or the clearing center may perform the settlement processing for the content

usage fee based on the profit distribution information and may also send the transfer request to the account management institution.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 9 as follows:

According to a yet further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a content inter-generation delivery restricting system including a plurality of user ~~device~~devices, for restricting the number of inter-generation deliveries of content in which the content is sequentially delivered from a content providing user device to a content receiving user device, and the content receiving user device to another content receiving user device in a serial manner. The content to be delivered among the user devices is contained in a secure container which stores information of a UCP indicating sales conditions of the content between the user devices. The UCP information includes UCP generation management information indicating the maximum number of inter-generation deliveries of the content between the user devices. The content receiving user device which is to purchase the secure container creates information of a usage control status (UCS) including UCS generation management information indicating the number of inter-generation deliveries of the content between the user devices, and stores the UCS information in a memory of the content receiving the user device. The content receiving user device checks conditions set in the UCS generation management information when the content is distributed between the user devices, and performs the inter-generation delivery of the content only when the conditions are satisfied.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 18 as follows:

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a content inter-generation delivery restricting method for restricting the number of inter-generation deliveries

of content in which the content is sequentially delivered from a content providing user device to a content receiving user device, and the content receiving user device to another content receiving user device in a serial manner. The content to be delivered among the user devices is formed in a secure container which stores information of a UCP indicating sales conditions of the content between the user devices. The UCP information including UCP generation management information indicates ~~indicating~~—the maximum number of inter-generation deliveries of the content between the user devices. The content inter-generation delivery restricting method includes the steps of: creating, by the content receiving user device which is to purchase the secure container, information of a UCS including UCS generation management information indicating the number of inter-generation deliveries of the content between the user devices, and storing the UCS information in a memory of the content receiving user device, conditions set in the UCS generation management information when the content is distributed between the user devices, and performing the inter-generation delivery of the content only when the conditions are satisfied.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 52, line 10 as follows:

The clearing center 260 sends an electronic-money issue log (hereinafter simply referred to as the “issue log”) 251 in which the usable amount of money and an identifier of the user device 220 are ~~set~~sent to the user device 220. The user device 220 stores the issue log 251 therein. The issue log 251 is discussed in detail later.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 10 as follows:

The control unit 301 performs intermediary processing for authentication between the encryption processing unit 302 and a service provider connected to the user device 300 through

the communication unit 305 via ~~connection~~-communication means 370, and intermediary control for decrypting a content key encrypted with a session key performed by the encryption processing unit 302. The control unit 301 also sends an initialization command to the recording device 350 via the recording device controller 303 when the recording device 350 is attached to the user device 300. The control unit 301 also performs intermediary processing for authentication, signature verification, encryption, and decryption, conducted between the encryption/decryption portion 308 of the encryption processing unit 302 and an encryption processing unit 351 of the recording device 350.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 67, line 15 as follows:

The user device 220 pays the content usage fee by using the electronic money unit 221 up to the usable amount of money set in the issue log 251 issued by the clearing center 260. In the making payment by using the electronic money unit 221, the electronic money balance recorded in the electronic money unit 221 (SAM) is checked. If the balance is less than the payment amount, payment using the electronic money unit 221 cannot be made. Only when the balance is equal to or greater than the payment ~~amount, can~~ amount can payment be made with electronic money. Upon payment processing, the electronic money balance recorded in the electronic money unit 221 is updated.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 68, line 25 as follows:

In the aforementioned processing, sometimes the electronic money balance based on the "old issue log" received from the user does not coincide with the balance data of a user-balance management server 263 within the clearing center 260. This is because the settlement processing of the receive log ~~252-253~~ 252-253 is sometimes behind. In this case, the clearing center 260

additionally issues a second issue log while managing the user ID, the issue log serial number, and the balances of the “old issue log” and the “new issue log” in the user-balance management server 263.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 69, line 19 as follows:

At this point, when the clearing center 260 issues the “new issue log” of 20,000 yen, the user log data of the user-balance management server 263 becomes [old issue log: user ID: balance 5,000 yen] and [new issue log: user ID; balance 20,000 yen]. After the clearing center 260 settles the receive log ~~252-253~~ of the uncollected 3,000 yen, the user log data becomes [old issue log: user ID: balance 2,000 yen] and [new issue log: user ID: balance 20,000 yen]. It should be noted that the type of log, i.e., the old log or the new log, can be determined by the issue log serial number. Alternatively, when receiving the electronic-money balance data based on the “old issue log” received from the user, the clearing center 260 may set the uncollected balance (in this example, 3,000 yen) as the uncollected balance data, and perform settlement processing.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 70, line 9 as follows:

After the user device 220 has paid the content usage fee by using the electronic money unit 221, the user device 220 generates the usage log 252 and sends it to the service providers 240. In the usage log 252, not only the issue log information possessed by the user device 220, but also usage information, such as the usage amount of money paid for the content, the receiver of the paid money, and serial number managed by the user device ~~200-220~~ are recorded. The current user electronic-money balance information and the usage service information may also be added. The digital signature of the user device 220 is attached to the above-described

information, and the usage log 252 is sent to the service provider 240. The user device 220 sends the usage log 252 to the service provider 240 and also stores it in a storage device outside the SAM.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 84, line 11 as follows:

A receives the public key certificate of B, Rb, Ra, Bv, and the digital signature B.Sig, and checks whether Ra coincides with the counterpart created by A. If the integrity of Ra is verified, A checks the digital signature of the public key certificate of B with the ~~publie~~-public key of the public-key certificate of IA 410 so as to extract the public key of B. Then, the digital signature B.Sig is verified by using the extracted public key. After the successful verification of the digital signature B.Sig, A authenticates B as a legal organization.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 92, line 20 as follows:

Fig. 13 ~~illustrate~~-illustrates an example of the specific configuration of the UCP 1203, and Fig. 14 illustrates an example of the specific configuration of the price information 1202. The UCP 1203 includes, as shown in Fig. 13, the content identifier (ID), the usable device conditions indicating user devices which are allowed to use the content, the area code indicating the code of the areas which are allowed to use the content, the type of right of use indicating the limit of the use of the content (for example, the number of times the content is allowed to be read or copied (downloaded)), "UCP generation management information" 1301 representing the number of "inter-generation deliveries" is allowed, and "number of secondary deliveries" 1302 designating the number of times the "secondary delivery" is allowed. The "UCP generation management information" 1301 and the "number of secondary deliveries" 1302 indicate the number of times the content can be distributed among different user devices. Usage control status (UCS)

information (see Fig. 16) containing “UCS generation management information” and “number of UCS secondary deliveries” is stored in a memory of each user device according to the content, which is discussed below in greater detail. The number of times the content is permitted to be distributed between different users set in the “UCP generation management information” 1301 becomes source data of the above “UCS generation management information” and the “number of UCS secondary deliveries”. Based on the “UCS generation management information” or the “number of UCS secondary deliveries”, it is determined whether inter-generation delivery or secondary delivery is to be performed. The “UCS generation management information” is updated every time the inter-generation delivery is performed. The “number of UCS secondary deliveries” is updated every time the secondary delivery is performed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 102, line 16 as follows:

As stated above, the “UCS generation management information” 1601 is the number of “inter-generation deliveries” is-allowed. In the UCS of the user device which has first purchased the content, the number of times equal to that of the “UCP generation management information” 1301 shown in Fig. 13 is set. In the UCS of a user device which has received the content by inter-generation delivery, the remaining number of inter-generation deliveries for the same secure container is set.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 113, line 3 as follows:

To utilize the content, and more specifically, to read the content in a data reading unit 1826, the user device A 1820 decrypts the content key stored in the memory 1824 by using the storage key, and decrypts the content of the secure container stored in the storage unit 1825 by using the decrypted content key. The decrypted content is then read in the data reading unit

1826. Before decrypting the content, predetermined conditions, such as the remaining number of reads, set in the UCS stored in the memory 1824 are checked. Only when the predetermined conditions are ~~met~~, ~~can~~ met can the content be decrypted.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 115, line 7 as follows:

If the content has been tampered with and is utilized in excess of a predetermined number of times, the number of receive ~~received~~ logs created for the same secure container exceeds the “UCP generation management information” contained in the UCP. Accordingly, the clearing center 1840 nullifies such receive logs. In the receive log, as shown in Fig. 17, not only the content ID, but also the “UCP generation management information” recorded in the secure container is stored. Thus, when performing the settlement processing, the clearing center 1840 is able to nullify receive logs which exceed the “UCP generation management information”. Receive logs created for the content which is not allowed to be transferred between a plurality of users are also nullified.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 119, line 7 as follows:

In step S1913, the user device A creates a receive log based on the usage log received from the user device B, and sends the receive log to the clearing center 1840. The signature of the user device A is attached to the receive log. After verifying the signature of the receive log, the clearing center 1840 performs settlement processing based on the receive log. As discussed above, instead of performing settlement processing, award redemption processing may be performed by the service provider 1810 in which certain award points are provided to the user who has performed secondary distribution or a management user who manages the user devices. In this case, the receive log may be sent to the service provider 1810, and points may be added in

the user information database 1813 of the service provider 1810. A receive log does not have to be immediately sent to the clearing center 1840 or the service provider 1810. Instead, a receive log may be stored in an electronic-money recording memory, and when a predetermined number of receive logs is ~~are~~ stored, or after a predetermined period of time, they may be sent to the clearing center 1840 or the service provider 1810.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 121, line 12 as follows:

The award redemption processing may be performed ~~performed~~ by the service provider, the clearing center, the content provider, or another institution. In the following example, the award redemption processing performed by the service provider is discussed with reference to the block diagram of Fig. 20.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 128, line 15 as follows:

Subsequently, the clearing center 2360 checks the receive log against the user data in the user management server, and confirms that the settlement request is from a user managed by the clearing center 2360 ~~260~~. The clearing center 2360 then updates the content-fee settlement data in the settlement server, and constructs the form of settlement based on the profit distribution information and sends a transfer request with the settlement data to the account management institution 2370 (indicated by processing (6) in Fig. 23).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 128, line 25 as follows:

The account management institution 2370 executes transfer processing for each account according to the "profit distribution" stored in the account management institution 2370 shown in Fig. 23 (represented by processing (7) in Fig. 23). Although in Fig. 23 only the electronic money settlement between the user C 2350 and the user B 2340 is shown, the account

management institution 2370 performs transfer processing for other accounts of, such as the content provider 2310. The profit distribution information may be extracted from the receive log and then sent from the clearing center 2360 to the account management institution 2370.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 148, line 16 as follows:

The clearing center is able to set the amount of money to be issued to the user based on the user's credibility. For example, the clearing center may set a small amount of money for juveniles or may set a large amount of money for users according to their number of transactions. The clearing center is also able to set the effective period according to the type of issue log. For example, the clearing center may set the effective period of an issue log with a large amount of money to be long, and ~~set sets~~ the effective period of an issue log with a small amount of money to be short.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 153, line 17 as follows:

While the present invention has been described with reference to what ~~is are~~ presently considered to be the preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment. On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures and functions.

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